of price negotiations for the Patented Drugs. The Committee has the members from Drug Controller General of India, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and this Department (earlier Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals) etc. The comprehensive product patent regime was introduced in India from 1.1.2005. It is unlikely in most cases that drugs whose patent have expired in developed countries would get patented in India. The Committee on price negotiations for patented drugs is yet to submit its report to the Government.

Adulteration of gold with iridium and ruthenium

588. SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the adulteration of gold with iridium;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(c) how many goldsmiths have been arrested in the country for adulterating the precious metal with iridium and ruthenium; and

(d) the steps being taken against the guilties for adulterating gold, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department of Commerce has received an anonymous complaint, *inter-alia,* alleging that jewellers mix iridium with gold. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is also aware that gold can be adulterated with iridium. Therefore, provision has been made in the relevant Indian Standard for Gold and Gold Alloys, Jewellery/Artifacts - fineness and marking, IS 1417:1999 that gold alloys for manufacturing jewellery/artifacts and gold solders shall be free from iridium.

(c) and (d) The Scheme of Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery being operated by BIS is voluntary in nature at present. So, BIS ensures that gold jewellery of its licenced jewellers conform to the relevant Indian Standard. BIS has no statutory powers under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 to take action against jewellers who are not BIS licensees and are involved in malpractices.

Import of pulses

†589.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Government agencies have imported pulses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of agencies and the amount of pulses imported from 2005-06 to December, 2008;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether these pulses have been sold time to time through bidding in Indian markets;

(d) if so, the amount of pulses and the time when these pulses were sold through bidding process in the country; and

(e) the profit earned by these agencies during each year of above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government has permitted PSUs namely STC, PEC Ltd., MMTC and NAFED to import pulses with reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of GIF value. There was no import of pulses by these PSUs on Government account during 2005-06. During 2006-07 NAFED imported and disposed 48061 tonnes of pulses. Import and disposal of pulses by PSUs and NAFED during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:-

Qty. in MTS

Name of Agencies	2007-08		2008-09*	
	Imported	Disposed	Imported	Disposed
NAFED	249079	249079	72696	21949
STC	364343	364288	210324	9774
PEC Ltd.	393394	304348	272850	35953
MMTC	304411	272024	182571	52090

*upto Dec 2008

PSUs and NAFED arranged disposal of imported pulses in open market by floating tenders from time to time and also as per the provisions of their business procedure. Only STC and MMTC have reported profits (tentative) of Rs. 43 crore and Rs. 30 crore respectively during 2007-08.

Complaints against unsatisfactory PDS

590. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in respect of whom complaints were received on account of unsatisfactory public distribution system during the last three years;

(b) the action taken in each case;

(c) the details of suggestions received from different quarters in this regard; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Details of complaints on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) received from individuals, organizations and through media, etc. in 2006-2007 and 2008, in the Department of Food and Public Distribution are given in the Statement